

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~ CONTROL/US OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY Poland and Polish-occupied Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORTTOPIC 1. Soviet Troops in Schweidnitz. CONFIDENTIAL 50X1-HUM
2. Soviet Troop Trains through Katowice.EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 12 December 1951

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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- On 17 and 18 August 1951, Soviet Army troops moved into the former provincial, and police court building, located on the west side of former Waldenburgerstrasse, Schweidnitz (P 51/H 10) and into some apartment houses adjoining the court building to the west. [redacted] the court building had been vacated several days before this move. The incoming troops were equipped with trucks and jeeps. [redacted] The troops who moved into the buildings were estimated to number about 350 and wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. They brought along personal baggage and large quantities of billeting equipment and household furniture. Three tanks with 6 bogie wheels and 3 track-supporting rollers on each side were parked in the yard of the court building. Their gun barrels projected far beyond the bow and mounted a pear-shaped muzzle brake. The vehicles on which the troops arrived remained at the quarters. *
- No other Soviet Army units or officers were noticed [redacted] in Schweidnitz. The barracks installations on the south side of Grenadierstrasse were occupied by Soviet Air Force personnel.
- Airmen were seen practicing stringing telephone lines at the post drill ground west of the city. About 30 military telephone lines, on telegraph poles, ran northwestward from the city and converged at the southern edge of the military post drill ground, near the former Strasse der S.A. No armored vehicles were noticed at the drill ground.
- Only a few Polish soldiers, apparently personnel on furlough, were seen in the streets of the city. [redacted] All other troop quarters and requisitioned residential areas were occupied by Soviet Air Force personnel.
- Between 19 and 25 September, 14 Soviet troop trains were observed passing through Katowice (C 51/Y 57) and proceeding toward Breslau (P 52/C 11). A large percentage of the troop trains were occupied by AAA troops. One of the trains consisted of 12 flatcars carrying two heavy AAA guns each; 5 flatcars carrying disassembled aircraft whose wings were the same length as a four-axle flatcar; 10 boxcars with enlisted personnel; and 1 coach with officers. No troop trains passed through the city between 29 September and 6 October.

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2

Two westbound troop trains were again observed moving through Katowice on 7 October. The first train consisted of 24 boxcars with undetermined cargo and 18 four-axle flatcars, each carrying one tank.

* Comment. [redacted] the former court building still housed a Soviet headquarters at the end of October 1950. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 [redacted] The present report gains credence in view of [redacted]
 [redacted] that the Soviet tank unit there left the post in the spring of 1951, and that the barracks installations in Oppeln were occupied by Polish units in July and August 1951. [redacted] 50X1-HUM
 The troops who, according to the present report, arrived in Schweidnitz on 18 August may have been only an advance party, with the bulk of the unit due to move to Schweidnitz upon completion of the summer training period. The buildings mentioned in the present report are roughly estimated to have a billeting capacity of not more than one regiment. [redacted]

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